UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22502
16 April 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Ali Khamenei, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made a provocative speech against Iraq during the Friday prayer on 5 April 1991. In his speech he asked the Iraqi army and its leaders to rise up against the regime and he incited the Iraqi people to engage in acts of sabotage, describing them as "hostile" acts. This provocative act, constituting as it does blatant interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, clearly reveals the involvement of the Iranian leaders in encouraging and aiding the saboteurs and riff-raff who have destroyed civilian property and been bent on killing innocent people, committing their criminal acts of plunder and pillage, burning the property of the Iraqi people and sowing civil strife, as has been their wont since 1980.

We enclose below several passages from that sermon, in which Mr. Khamenei said, "I wish to impress upon the leaders of the regime that it cannot possibly achieve victory through such acts over its people in opposition, for whenever there is a clash between the regime and opponents of the regime, the victor is bound to be the people, and the vanquished, the regime against the people. Similarly, all the leaders of the Iraqi army must know that whenever they go against the Iraqi people a very dire fate shall be theirs, and that the army which joins the people shall be beloved of the people; the army which stands against the people shall be beaten; whenever the people does not wish these officials to be in power, they must not be so. There is no other solution for the leaders of Iraq, from Saddam Hussein to those around him.

"I appeal unambiguously to the Iraqi people. The Iraqi people must realize fully that this is a crucial moment. If they resist, their fate shall be resplendent. Indeed, this path may be difficult and require struggle and self-sacrifice. Without struggle, no goal can be attained. They must assume these difficulties, which will be of short duration. On the other hand, if they back down and submit to this regime, woe betide them from punishment by the regime, for it shall visit upon them incomparably greater cruelty than that experienced hitherto. Should this regime reassert its control over the people (God forbid), it will take a great revenge on the Iraqi people, who will be forced to continue along the same path, relying on God and asking God for help and making the sacrifices of freedom fighters - then God shall make them victorious."

Mr. Khamenei added, "Here I should like to say one word to you, the Iranian people. Note the arrogance, note his anger at and aversion towards the uprising of the vigilant Muslims and the Islamic resurgence. This is what we are witnessing in the events of Iraq. Saddam today, confronting his people in this barbarous fashion, is the same Saddam as two months ago, about whom all the Western newspapers wrote, painting such a cruel picture of him. If this person is really so, why did you deal with him in previous years? And now when the day has come when Saddam is confronting his people, everyone has fallen silent and all this talk which was being heard against Saddam has ceased. All these newspapers, international propaganda services and all these reports have fallen under the arrogant sway of America and Britain. Now, all the propaganda services are working against the cause of Iraq and the Iraqi people, which is fighting for its rights. They turned a blind eye to the murder committed against the Iraqi people at Najaf and Kerbala and Basra and other cities. All of the northern cities have been placed under an umbrella of silence and this cruel figure has ceased to be. Now, when one looks at international newspapers one sees that what these newspapers are writing against the Baathist regime is the same as what they wrote during the imposed war and that the arrogant propaganda is on the side of Iraq ..."

On this occasion I should like to point out that while Mr. Ali Khamenei is the spiritual leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he is also its highest official, by virtue of the Iranian Constitution. Therefore my Government interprets his words as constituting an official incitement to the Iraqi army and people to rise up against the regime. It considers this to be blatant interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and incitement to civil strife, on which the leaders of the Iranian regime have been intent ever since 1980.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative